

MANAGERS OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 17th February 1873;—*for*,

COPIES "of all MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS and of all LETTERS and other DOCUMENTS referred to in such MINUTES having relation to the Removal from the Office of MANAGER of NATIONAL SCHOOLS of the Reverend Dr. Keenan, the Reverend G. K. Wilson, the Reverend M. O'Farrell, and the Reverend P. Sheridan :"

"Of the Names of the COMMISSIONERS present at each Meeting of the Board at which the Decisions referred to in the said Minutes were arrived at : with Lists of the Votes on every said Minute on which the Board divided :"

"And, STATEMENT whether the Teachers in each case acknowledged the Authority of the newly-recognised Manager, and received the Board's Salaries through him."

Note.—There were no divisions in any of the cases referred to in this Return.

Education Office, Dublin, }
10 March 1873. }

JAMES KELLY, }
W. H. NEWELL, } Secretaries.

(*Mr. Prin.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 April 1873.

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COPIES of all MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS and of all LETTERS and other DOCUMENTS referred to in such MINUTES having relation to the Removal from the Office of MANAGER of NATIONAL SCHOOLS of the Reverend Dr. Keenan, the Reverend G. K. Wilson, the Reverend M. O'Farrell, and the Reverend P. Sheridan; of the Names of the COMMISSIONERS present at each Meeting of the Board at which the Decisions referred to in the said Minutes were arrived at; with Lists of the Votes on every said Minute on which the Board divided; and, STATEMENT whether the Teacher in each case acknowledged the Authority of the newly-recognised Manager, and received the Board's Salaries through him.

- I. -

CASE OF RIGHT REVEREND DR. KEENAN.

MAGRERAL NATIONAL SCHOOL, COUNTY DUBLIN.

Visited in Trustees.

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The Teacher of the Magreral National School refused to recognize the Rev. J. Macken as Manager, and received no Salary from the Board after the 31st October 1845.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated
22 May 1845.

PRESENT:

Most Rev. Dr. Murray.
The Provost.
Rev. Dr. Henry.

J. R. Corballis, Esq.
Alexr. MacDonnell, Esq.

READ Letter from Right Rev. Dr. Blake (dated 8th May 1845) addressed to the Most Rev. Dr. Murray, in reference to the Order of the Board dated 17th April 1845 in the case of Magheral National Schools, Co. Down.

Ordered, That the subject referred to in the Right Rev. Dr. Blake's letter be taken into consideration at a special meeting of the Board on the 3rd June (Thursday), provided there be a full attendance of the members.

— No. 2. —

LETTER from the Right Reverend Dr. Blake to the Most Reverend Dr. Murray.

My dear Lord,

Violet Hill, Newry, 6 May 1845.

In the month of February last, I addressed a letter to the Commissioners of National Education to apprise them of the disorderly conduct of the Master of the Magheral School in this diocese, and, as I did not think it necessary to render an account to them of my reasons for suspending the Rev. John Keenan, and appointing another administrator in his stead over the parish of Anaghlin, I respectfully begged to inform them that the Rev. John Macken is now the administrator, to whom I have committed the care of the Catholics of that parish, and that he is the fittest person to be patron and manager of the aforesaid school; circumstanced as that parish is, a change both of master and manager seemed to me absolutely necessary.

The Commissioners have not condescended to honour me with an answer; but their Secretaries have written the letter herewith enclosed, to the Rev. Mr. Macken, from whom I received it this morning, and I learn from it not only that the master, whose indiscretion and turbulence are acknowledged by the Board, is to be continued over the Magheral School, but also that the refractory clergyman, to whom I cannot conscientiously confide the care of the children, is to be their patron and manager.

My duty in such a case is plain and obvious; but, conceiving that your grace may not have been informed of the particulars which I have now stated, I beg, before I take any further step, to call your attention to them.

Hoping that you are now recovered from the effects of the accident which caused your late confinement, and which I sincerely lamented when I was in Dublin,

The Most Reverend Dr. Murray.

I have, &c.
(signed) + M. Blake

— No. 3. —

EXTRACTS from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated
5 and 12 June 1845.

Thursday, 5 June 1845.

PRESENT:

Most Rev. Dr. Murray.
The Provost.

J. R. Corballis, Esq.
Alexr. MacDonnell, Esq.

READ letter from Right Rev. Dr. Blake (8th May 1845) addressed to Most Rev. Dr. Murray, in reference to the case of Mr. Grant, Master of Magheral National School, County Down.

Order,

[N.B.—There is a blank in the Minute Book here. The order noted on the original document before the Board was, "B. O., 5-6-45. To remove Rev. Dr. Keenan from Managership, &c., and appoint the Rev. Mr. Macken."]]

12 June 1845.

PRESENT:

Most Rev. Dr. Murray,
The Protost.Alexr. MacDonnell, Esq.
J. R. Cosballie, Esq.

READ draft of letter to the Rev. Dr. Keenan, communicating the Order of the Board of 5th instant with reference to the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Macken, as Manager of Magheral National School, Co. Down.

Ordered, That it be approved and transmitted to the Rev. Dr. Keenan, and also a copy be sent to Right Rev. Dr. Blake.

Sir,

Education Office, 12 June 1845.

THE Commissioners direct us to inform you that they have been apprised by the Right Rev. Dr. Blake, the Roman Catholic Bishop of your diocese, that you have been suspended from the performance of your duties as *r.e.* of Drumahaire and Annaghmore, and that the Rev. Mr. Macken has been duly appointed Administrator of the Parish until the appeal which you have instituted against your suspension shall have been decided.

THE Commissioners have, after mature consideration, resolved upon transferring from you to the Rev. Mr. Macken the management of the Magheral School (to which they appointed you as Manager in 1834, on the ground of your being Administrator of the Parish) until judgment shall have been pronounced by the proper authority on your appeal.

We are, &c.
(signed) Maurice Cross, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

Rev. J. S. Keenan, Loughbrickland.

— No. 4. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated 25 September 1845.

PRESENT:

The Archbishop of Dublin,
Sir Patrick Bellew, Bart.
The Marquis of Kildare.
Robert Holmes, Esq.J. R. Cosballie, Esq.
Alexr. Macdonnell, Esq.
Rev. P. S. Henry, S.D.

READ Letter 4293—O, dated 26 September 1845, from Messrs. A. Keane, and Patrick McArdle, two of the trustees of the Magheral National School, Co. Down, protesting against the appointment of Rev. Mr. Macken as manager.

Ordered, That the letter be acknowledged, and the parties be informed that the secretaries will take an early opportunity to bring the whole matter under the notice of the Commissioners, and that in the meantime the superintendent be directed to inquire privately if the other trustees are alive and resident, and if so, to ascertain what their opinions are on the subject of the memorial.

— No. 5. —

(4295)

LETTER from Messrs. Andrew Keen, and Patrick McArdle to the Board of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Angharvaleg, 26 September 1845.

IT is with pain and grief we address you respecting the change the Commissioners of National Education have lately made in the management of the National School of Magheral, County Down, at the instance of the Right Rev. Dr. Blake, but we deem it our imperative duty, as lovers of truth and justice, as trustees of the school, and as friends of National Education, to state, with the most profound respect to the Board, that we protest against the Rev. John Macken as patron of our school.

Gentlemen, we respectfully submit that the patron of a National school should possess the confidence of the people who support the school; if so, the Rev. John Macken is the last man who should be appointed as patron. The Catholics who support our school are opposed to him as manager; the Protestants whose children attend the school are opposed to him, and the Presbyterians who send their children to receive instruction at our school have no confidence in him.

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Gentlemen,

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

When lately visiting the Magheral National School, I recommended the teacher to accept of a school which I could procure for him at Killybeg, then vacant; he refused, observing that he would not desert his friend Dr. Keenan.

If Mr. McMullan, of Cahra House, a very respectable Roman Catholic gentleman, would accept the management of the school, *pro tempore*, the contending parties could have no objection to the appointment.

The Secretaries,
Education Office.

I remain, &c.
(signed) Edward Lyons,
Superintendent.

— No. 9. —

Magheral National School.

MEMORANDUM as to Letter 36, dated 8 October 1845, from Dr. Lyons, as to Trustees
J. Clarke.

N.B.—This letter is not now forthcoming; careful search has been made for it.

— No. 10. —

(4517—O.)

LETTER from the Reverend *J. Macken* to the Board of National Education.

Magheral National School, County Down, Katesbridge,
Rathfriland, 6 October 1845.

Gentlemen,
In accordance with the usual method adopted in similar cases, I sent the query sheet for salary, forwarded to me from your office, to the teacher of Magheral National School, to have the names of children and the average attendance, &c., transferred to the query sheet. He received it from the person sent by me on Saturday the 4th instant. I called at the school on this morning about 10 o'clock for the query sheet, and to check the rolls. What was my surprise to learn that the document entrusted to me by the Board as manager had been handed, by the teacher, to some persons under the name of committee, or trustees. I remonstrated with him on the impropriety of giving to any party a document given to my charge by the Board, and which I should have returned to your office. I will in a future communication to you, gentlemen, explain my reasons for being anxious to have Mr. Grant located in a National school in some other place; a thing I would be very desirous of having effecting. In the mean time I shogher dispense, so far as a manager can, with the services of the so-called committee or trustees, who have had little to do in the erection of the house, and wish to interfere only for party purposes. I will feel greatly obliged by having the former query sheet, if it has reached your office, sent down again to me, or a new one to be properly filled and signed. Any suggestions or instructions from your honourable Board will be thankfully received and attended to by .

Maurice Cross, Esq., } Secretaries.
James Kelly, Esq., }

Yours, &c.
(signed) John Macken.

— No. 11. —

(Letters 4552. O.—B.O. p. 10. 46.)

LETTER from the Board of National Education to the Right Honourable *A. R. Blake*.

Dear Sir,

Education Office, Dublin, 11 October 1845.

We are to request you that, in compliance with your wishes as expressed in your note of the 7th instant, we are authorised to transmit to you as soon as they can be prepared, copies of the minutes of each day's proceedings of the Board, and also to forward a statement of any special business to be discussed of which previous notice has been given; accordingly, the summons issued yesterday contains a notice of the business to be transacted next Thursday, the day appointed for the consideration of special business.

We enclose, by order of the Commissioners, copies of some further correspondence relating to the Magheral National School, County Down, and are to request you will favour them with your opinion as to the course which should be adopted. It may be right to remind you that by an order of the Board, dated the 5th of last June, the management of the school was transferred from the Reverend Dr. Keenan to the Reverend Mr. Macken.

We remain, &c.
(signed) Maurice Cross, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

Right Honourable Anthony Blake,
The Albany, London.

— No. 12. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated 15th October 1843.

PRESENT:

The Archbishop of Dublin.
The Provost.
Rev. Dr. Henry.
Robert Greene, Esq., Solicitor General.
Robert Holmes, Esq.

Right Hon. Sir Patrick Beloe, Bart.
Marquis of Kildare.
J. R. Corbally, Esq.
Alexander MacDonnell, Esq.

READ Letter 4687—O, from the Right honourable A. R. Blake, with reference to the Magheral case, upon which his opinion was requested.

— No. 13. —

(4687—O.)

LETTER from the Right Honourable A. R. Blake to the Board of National Education.

Dear Sirs,

Albany, 14 October 1843.

I HAVE received your letter of the 11th, but as I was much engaged yesterday, and am just now leaving town for a few days, I must defer giving any opinion on the papers respecting the Magheral School for a few days.

I hope to write to you on the subject from Arundel Castle by the end of this week.

Yours, &c.

(signed) A. R. Blake.

N.B.—No communication was subsequently received on this subject from Mr. Blake.

(signed) James Kelly.

William H. Newell.

— No. 14. —

EXTRACT (No. 1) from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated 23rd October 1843.

PRESENT:

The Archbishop of Dublin.
The Provost.
Most Rev. Dr. Murray.
R. W. Greene, Esq.

Marquis of Kildare.
J. R. Corbally, Esq.
Alexander MacDonnell, Esq.

READ, Letter 4892—O, from Mr. Grant, teacher of Magheral National School, Co. Down, requesting to be favoured with a statement of the charges preferred against him by the Rev. J. Macken, the manager, and with a list of the witnesses; also protesting against the inquiry ordered by the Board being conducted by Mr. Robertson, on the ground of the gross partiality displayed by him at a previous investigation.

Ordered, That Mr. Grant's request to be favoured with a statement of the charges be complied with, but that the Commissioners cannot send him a list of the witnesses, not being aware whom the Rev. Mr. Macken intends to summon.

With reference to Mr. Grant's protest, he is to be informed that they place implicit reliance in the impartiality of the officer selected by them to conduct the investigation, and that his attempt to dictate to them by whom it should be held, is regarded by them with very strong displeasure.

— No. 15. —

(4803—O.)

LETTER from Mr. Grant to the Board of National Education.

Katesbridge, 21 October 1845.

Gentlemen,

When returning home from school on yesterday, Rev. J. Macken produced a letter addressed to him from the Commissioners of National Education, out of which he read to the best of my recollection, that Mr. Thos. J. Robertson, would be at the school-room on Thursday next, the 23rd instant, to investigate fresh charges preferred against me by the said Rev. gentleman, and requesting him to know from me whether I could have my witnesses in readiness on that day. I replied to him that Thursday at night would be more convenient, which time was agreed on. But, gentlemen, I think it a duty I owe to myself to request that you will have the goodness, at your earliest convenience, to send me a copy of the charges preferred against me, in order that I may know what witnesses I should procure to defeat the nefarious plots of my traducers.

By your sending me a copy of the charges and the names of the witnesses that Rev. J. Macken will produce to sustain those charges, I will be ready on Thursday, the 30th inst., to meet any enemies at the schoolroom, before any impartial reporter the Board may send. But as neither my friends nor I can have any confidence in Mr. Robertson, owing to the one-sided course pursued by him at the last investigation here, I trust the Commissioners will appoint some gentleman that will take a fair, open, and impartial course.

Were Mr. Robertson to preside at the investigation, I have no hope of obtaining justice through him.

I have highly respectable authority that he expressed himself unfavourably to my interest in Dublin prior to the last investigation, and I feel bound solemnly to protest against his being appointed to preside at any inquiry where my interest or character is concerned.

I remain, &c.
(signed) Michael Grant.

— No. 16. —

EXTRACT (No. 2) from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 23 October 1845.

PRESENT:

The Archbishop of Dublin.
The Provost.
Most Rev. Dr. Murray.
R. W. Greene, Esq.

Marquis of Kildare.
J. R. Corbally, Esq.
Alexr. MacDonnell, Esq.

READ letter No. 4803—O, from Mr. John Adams, enclosing two memorials signed by him and several other persons, praying the Commissioners to rescind their order appointing the Rev. J. Macken as manager of the Magheral National School, Co. Down, and protesting against Mr. T. J. Robertson being selected by the Board to conduct the inquiry into Mr. Grant's conduct.

Ordered, That a similar reply with regard to the latter memorial be given as to Mr. Grant.

— No. 17. —

(4803—O.)

LETTER from Mr. John Adams to the Board of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Katesbridge, 22 October 1845.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you by this night's post the resolutions adopted at a public meeting of the supporters of Magheral National School of all religious denominations, held in the schoolroom on the 11th inst., and the protest of the Committee of the School against Mr. Robertson, and I am compelled to say that not only the supporters of the school but the great body of the people of the country feel surprised at the course pursued by the National Board respecting the management, &c. of the Magheral National School at the instance of the Right Rev. Dr. Blake. By what means Dr. Blake has influenced the Board to act aside Dr. Keenan and appoint Rev. J. Macken as manager of this school, I do not pretend to know. But this I do know from more than ten years' experience of him, that there is not a man in the kingdom better adapted in every sense of the word to manage a National school than Dr. Keenan.

I have

I have been a feeble but earnest advocate of the National system of education since its establishment, because I considered that it was fairly shared for all parties by the Government, and that the instruction of the children of all sects in the same school would in time be highly beneficial to society; but I cannot express to you my surprise and indignation at the insult offered to me and my Protestant neighbours who support the school, at a meeting on the 11th inst. by a man named Hugh Mooney; who is one of Rev. J. Macken's chief directors. It was plain to every one present that Mooney's object in attending the meeting was to sow the seed of discord among the people, for he went so far as to say that the Protestants should not enter the school at all: this gentleman bears out the trustees in their views regarding what the school will come to under the management of Rev. J. Macken, Hugh Mooney, and party.

As a supporter of Magheral National School, and that it may be national, not only in name, but in reality, I would beg the Commissioners to act in accordance with the wish of the Trustees and Committee of the school, who have no other object in view than the promotion of National Education, and not allow themselves to be any longer misled by designing men, whose conduct is calculated to injure National Education in this neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(signed) Jas. Adams.

RESOLUTIONS:

At a meeting of the friends of National Education of all religious denominations, convened by public requisition, and held on Saturday 11th October 1845, at the National School, Magheral; John Adams, Esq., in the Chair; Mr. John McAnarney, Secretary.

The protest of the Trustees of this school lately addressed to the National Board, against Rev. John Macken having any connection as manager of this school having been read,

Moved by James McMahon, seconded by George McSpadden:

Resolved, That we highly approve of the statement made in that protest.

Moved by John Morrison, seconded by N. J. McKey:

Resolved, That we who support this school, cannot help expressing our surprise at the course pursued by the National Board in giving a reprimand to the Master, Mr. Grant, at the instance of the Right Rev. Dr. Blake and Rev. John Macken. Mr. Grant's conduct we know from personal observation better than the Board can possibly know it, and instead of censure, his conduct is entitled to every praise.

Moved by J. C. Magennis, seconded by Andrew Keane:

Resolved, That inasmuch as the attempts made to dismiss the teacher by Rev. John Macken, in preferring false charges against him having failed, we are unable to discover any justifiable grounds on the part of the Board to set aside Dr. Keenan, the friend of the people, and teacher and proper patron, on the recommendations of Right Rev. Dr. Blake, and appoint Rev. John Macken as manager, in utter contempt of the trustees and the people of all creeds who support this school; but on the explicit understanding that Mr. Grant would be expelled, although convicted of no violation of any known law of the Board.

Moved by Thomas McNeill, seconded by James Magiffin:

Resolved, That the right of appointing the patron of a National school is vested in the people and trustees who support the school, and as we will never consent to allow Rev. Mr. Macken, or any man of his stamp, to manage the affairs of this school, we respectfully call on the Board to cancel their letter of the 12th June last, transferring the management of the school to Rev. John Macken; and if the Board refuse to do this, we nominate and appoint Mr. Andrew Keane and Mr. Patrick McArdle as the managers of this establishment; otherwise we, the supporters of this school, will at once withdraw our children from it, and let Dr. Blake and Rev. John Macken and their midnight committee, whose communications have influenced and misled the Board, to convert it into a party affair without further delay.

Moved by James Curlet, seconded by Hugh Fegan:

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of the following persons, Protestants and Catholics, the supporters of this school, be appointed to assist the trustees in carrying out the original views of the National Board, in managing the business of the school, as has been hitherto managed, on principles of strict impartiality.

The Trustees: Jas. McLorrey, Wm. McChesa, John Adams, Thos. McNeill, Michl. Doyle, Gilbert Adams, Thos. McLorrey, Jas. Magiffin, John Wilson, John Stitt, James McMahon, John C. Magennis, Arthur McArdle, Thos. Rowan, George McSpadden, John Morrison, Hugh McArdle, Neal John McKey.

John Adams, Chairman.
John McAnarney, Secretary.

Mr.

Mr. Adams was then moved from the chair, and John C. Magee was called thereto.

It was unanimously

Resolved, That the marked thanks of this meeting are cordially due to Mr. John Adams, for his proper and dignified conduct in the chair this day, as well as for his constant endeavours to promote the happiness and prosperity of all his neighbours of every class and creed.

John C. Magee, Chairman.

John McDermott, Secretary.

— No. 18. —

PROCEEDINGS of the Committee of the National School of Maghera, unanimously adopted at a Meeting held in the School-room, on Tuesday, the 21st October 1843.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Commissioners of National Education.

WE, the Committee of Maghera National School, in the Parish of Drumballymorey, and County of Down, having heard with surprise and indignation that Reverend John Macken has preferred fresh charges against Mr. Grant, teacher of this school, and that Mr. Thomas J. Robertson has been appointed to investigate the same, beg to enter our solemn protest against Mr. Robertson having anything to do whatever in any investigation affecting the character of Mr. Grant. The extraordinary course pursued by Mr. Robertson at the investigation held here on the 27th March last, in interfering with the dispute between Right Reverend Dr. Blake and Reverend Dr. Keenan, in order to assist the perfidious accusations and false witnesses of Mr. Grant to make out a case against him, when all the other plans failed, although he, Mr. Robertson, publicly stated before the investigation, that he would not enter into the case between Dr. Blake and Keenan at all: the preventing of the people who support the school from being present, lest they would discover his partiality; the permitting of such false witness to leave the school when examined, that he might tell those unexamined, the general questions put, and how they should be answered, in order to convict the accused; his not even allowing Thomas Scott, Esq., the Magistrate who came to adjudge the witnesses, to remain in the school during the investigation; his denying to Mr. Grant to inquire as to the character of the witnesses, some of whom were thieves, and others forgers; all went to show clearly, that he leaned desperately to the side of the accusers, in order to accomplish the ruin of the Teacher.

In the name of justice and truth, we respectfully call on the Board to send down some person who will hold a fair and open investigation, and give an impartial report of the proceedings, to the Board.

We feel it our bounden duty to state, that justice would be tarnished in the hands of Mr. Robertson, and we protest against his being sent to hold any investigation in reference to Mr. Grant.

(signed on behalf of the Committee)

John Adams, Chairman.

John McDermott, Secretary.

— No. 19. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated 6 November 1843.

PRESENT:

The Archbishop of Dublin,
R. W. Greene, Esq.
Marquis of Kildare.

J. R. Corbellis, Esq.
Alexr. Macdonnell, Esq.

READ letter 5040—O, from Mr. J. Adams, enclosing resolutions, passed at a meeting of the friends of Maghera National School, Co. Down, held on the 20th ultimo, with reference to the appointment of Rev. J. Macken as Manager, by the direction of the Commissioners.

Ordered, That a special meeting of the Commissioners be summoned on Thursday next at the usual hour, to take into consideration the resolutions above referred to, and others previously received from the same parties.

— No. 20. —

(5040—O.)

LETTER from Mr. John Adams to the Board of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Katesbridge, 5 November 1844.

I HAVE the honour to forward you by this evening's post, the accompanying resolutions of the friends and supporters of Mayhew National School, unanimously adopted at the meeting on the 30th ult., and I do assure you that the people of this country will not be any longer silent regarding the cruel course pursued against the teacher, Mr. Grant.

May I be permitted to ask respectfully, what right Dr. Blake has to have Mr. Macken, or any other man, appointed as manager of Mayhew National School, in defiance not only of the Catholics, but also the Protestants and Presbyterians who support the school? I dare say ere long, Ulster will answer—none whatever. He may deprive the Catholics of judging for themselves, but he never shall impose a man of the Rev. Mr. Macken's stamp, on the Protestants and Presbyterians, as manager of this school, at which their children receive their education.

The Secretaries,
Education Office, &c., Dublin.

I remain, &c.
(signed) John Adams.

RESOLUTIONS.

At a numerous and highly respectable meeting of the friends of National Education, including the supporters of Mayhew National School of all religious denominations, held in the School-room on Thursday the 30th October 1844, John Adams, Esq., Katesbridge, in the chair, John McAnaney, Secretary; the following Resolutions, drawn up by the Committee of the school, were unanimously adopted:—

1st.—Moved by Mr. James Camlin, seconded by Mr. John Doyle:

Resolved, That the manner of managing the National School of Mayhew on the part of the Rev. Dr. Keenan, for the last 11 years, deserves our grateful acknowledgments and unqualified approbation.

2nd.—Moved by Mr. Eugene Graham, seconded by Mr. W. Dunlop:

Resolved, That we have heard with surprise than an attempt has been made, through the representations of Right Rev. Dr. Blake, to separate him from the school, and to put in his place a man whose notorious misconduct in heading a lawless mob to wreck the Catholic chapel of these parishes, on the 23rd and 24th May last, when the lives of many were put in imminent danger, together with several other facts on which we do not wish to dwell at present, has made an impression on our minds that his connection with the school would be highly detrimental to the interests of the parents, pupils, and master, and would eventually destroy its existence.

3rd.—Moved by Mr. Francis Kirk, seconded by Mr. John McGrorey:

Resolved, That for these reasons we never will consent to Dr. Keenan's resigning the post he has so honourably discharged, as long as he is willing to retain it.

4th.—Moved by Mr. Henry Blakely, seconded by Mr. John O'Hare:

Resolved, That the ill-natured and base attempts that have been made to injure the master, Mr. Grant, by bringing him to trial so often, on either false or frivolous charges, fill us with indignation and disgust.

As every attempt hitherto made against him has signally failed, and has stamped the false accusers with infamy, we have no doubt but his upright and unimpeachable character, will ever come out of the crucible of persecutions unscathed and unscathed.

5th.—Moved by Mr. George Watt, seconded by Mr. P. Cwitt:

Resolved, That we would be inseparable to our own interests did we not come forward to uphold a man, distinguished alike for accuracy of knowledge and propriety of conduct. We tell his enemies then, to desist from their malignant attempts to injure him, as their wicked wiles serve only to stimulate his friends to uphold him, until he is proved guilty of some improper act, of which we have never heard, and do not anticipate; we pledge ourselves never to abandon him.

6th.—Moved by Mr. James Norris, seconded by Mr. Patrick Mulholland :

Resolved, That we have the greatest confidence in his Excellency, the present Chief Governor of Ireland, Right Honourable Lord Heytesbury, whose rule seems to us to give satisfaction to all lovers of peace and good neighbourhood, and that an address be forwarded without delay, stating the circumstances of Mr. Grant's persecution, and imploring his Excellency to extend his paternal protection to him, and thereby shield him from the base attempts of malignant enemies.

7th.—Moved by Mr. P. Doran, seconded by Mr. P. Devlin :

Resolved, That it appears to the meeting somewhat extraordinary, that the National Board would countenance now, for the third time, charges so silly and frivolous against Mr. Grant; nor can we help complaining of the want of ordinary politeness on the part of the Board towards the Trustees and Committee of this school, to whom they gave no notice of the postponement of this investigation; a large number of people are thus taken from their business and their homes, in this trying season of the year, and an excitement injurious to the peace of the neighbourhood is kept up. Can it be possible that no answer is intended to be given by the Board to the remonstrance of the Trustees of this school, forwarded on the 26th September last to the Commissioners of National Education, against Rev. John Macken? Indeed, if the Board intended to destroy the usefulness of this school, they could not have taken a more effectual method than by encouraging Dr. Blake and Mr. Macken in their charges against the useful and correct master, Mr. Grant, and the patron, the Rev. Dr. Keenan.

(signed) *John Adams, Chairman.*
John McAdams, Secretary.

Mr. Adams was then moved from the chair, and Mr. J. C. Magenis was called thereto.

Moved by Mr. Hugh Fegan, seconded by rapturous acclamation :

Resolved, That the marked thanks of this meeting are eminently due to Mr. John Adams for his proper conduct in the chair this day, as well as for his desire at all times to promote the happiness and prosperity of his neighbours of every class and creed.

(signed) *J. C. Magenis, Chairman.*
John McAdams, Secretary.

— No. 21. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 4 December 1840.

PRESENT :

The Archbishop of Dublin.
Most Rev. Archbishop Murray.
Rev. P. S. Henry.
J. R. Corbally, Esq.

Sir P. Bellew.
Marquis of Kildare.
Alexr. Macdonnell, Esq.

READ memorials from W. A. Kenny, W. Adams, and others, protesting against the order of the Board appointing the Rev. J. Macken, manager of the Maghera National School, Co. Down.

Ordered, That the memorialists be informed, that the Commissioners see no grounds for altering their decision in this case.

— II. —

CASE OF THE REVEREND G. K. WILSON.

GLENVALE NATIONAL SCHOOL, COUNTY DERRY.

Non-Vested.—Under a Committee.

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1	Letter from Reverend G. K. Wilson to the Board of National Education, dated 23rd March 1881	15
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4	Extract of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated 5th July 1881	16

Teacher in this case recognised the authority of the newly appointed manager, and received salary through him.

— No. 1. —

(4681—51.)

LETTER from the Reverend G. K. Wilson, to the Board of National Education.

Bellaghy, County Derry,
23 June 1881.

Gentlemen,
ABOUT 10 or 12 years ago I wrote you in reference to additional schools which I wished to have established in the surrounding localities. To that communication I have not received any reply. The want of common courtesy on your part may be apparent only, not real; for the meantime, therefore, I only respectfully request that you will have the goodness to favour me with an answer to my former letter at your earliest convenience.

I am led to believe, that during the period of my indisposition, when I was advised to remove to another neighbourhood, an application was made to the Commissioners to have my services dispensed with as manager of Glenvale School.

If this be the case, which I have no reason at present to doubt, I request, and hope that you will oblige me with a copy of the letter or letters, which may have been forwarded to your office upon the subject.

To the Secretaries, &c.

Yours, &c.
(signed) G. Kirkc Wilson.

— No. 2. —

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 26 June 1881.

PRESENT:

The Most Rev. Archbishop Murray.
The Rev. Dr. Henry.

The Right Hon. R. W. Greene.
The Right Hon. A. Macdonnell.

READ letter 4581—51, from the Rev. G. Kirkc Wilson, complaining of having been superceded in the management of the Glenvale National School.

Ordered, That the Rev. Mr. Wilson be informed, that the Commissioners having learned that he has been deposed from the ministry, are under the painful necessity of declining to recognise him as manager of either the Glenvale or any other National School.

— No. 3. —

(4986—51.)

LETTER from the Reverend G. Kirkc Wilson to the Board of National Education.

Bellaghy, 3 July 1881.

Gentlemen,
I HASTEN to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated 1st current, and to state that its contents alike surprised me and wounded my feelings. I cannot allow the matter to rest in its present position without at least respectfully, but strongly, remonstrating with the Commissioners in reference to the management of the Glenvale School. I take

the liberty, therefore, of submitting the following facts for the consideration of the gentlemen who superintend the system of National Education:—

1st. I am not deposed from the ministry, as it appears, has been falsely represented to the Commissioners of Education. I took up credentials from the Magherafelt Presbytery, simple in their nature as to my status in the ministry, talents, and literary acquirements. I did so with the determination of connecting myself with another church of the reformation, and I have now all that constituted a negotiation with the ecclesiastical body to which I refer, to be taken under their care.

My testimonials were not for a moment called in question, or considered inadequate.

The original document I shall, with pleasure, submit to your inspection if you wish it, enabling in your integrity as honourable gentlemen, that you will have it safely returned. I may here mention, that when the Magherafelt Presbytery found that I was about to join another body, they convened a meeting, and in the most peremptory manner, and contrary to all precedent and constitutional principle, did pass a sentence of deposition, just because I continued to preach the gospel.

This conduct I exposed through the medium of the public press, and intend shortly to submit it to the dispassionate consideration of a jury of my countrymen.

2nd. I continue regularly to officiate in my own meeting-house, and to my own congregation, undisturbed in my possession of our place of worship, and not only with the concurrence, but at the anxious solicitation of the members who have been in the habit of steadily attending on my ministry.

We have ceased, of course, to be under the care of the General Assembly, but our services are to be conducted in future under the jurisdiction, and in accordance with the forms of another church, in which we repose all belief and confidence.

3rd. Mr. Templeton is not my successor here, as may have been falsely reported to you, and that for the plain and palpable reason, that I am myself in the active discharge of my professional duties, and have been absent only for two weeks in a visit to my relatives in another county. Mr. Templeton's congregation and mine, are, in all respects, separate and distinct from each other.

I am sorry that you have been led into error by the misrepresentations of interested parties in and around this locality, who wish to give me personal annoyance; and I have only to say in conclusion, that if, after the foregoing statement of facts, I shall be treated with disrespect by the Commissioners, it is not what I have endeavoured to merit at their hands. I was an unflinching supporter of the National System of Education, according to my humble abilities, when it was less fashionable than it is now, to advocate its cause, and when my misrepresentations were found in the ranks of the enemy. I am still of opinion, that when the matter shall be reconsidered in its proper and legitimate bearings, I shall be dealt with in the spirit of enlightenment, candour, and righteousness.

To Maurice Cross and James Kelly,
Esqrs., Secretaries.

Messrs., I am, &c.
(signed) G. Kirk Wilson.

P.S.—I beg further to direct your particular attention to the circumstance, that the Glenale School-house was built by private subscriptions, and has been kept in repair in the same way. There is no Committee of management at present, the affairs of the school have for some time past been exclusively under my own control.

(signed) G. K. W.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 31 July 1861.

PRESENT:—

The Right Honourable The Lord
Chancellor (Brady.)
The Rev. D. Haughey, President
Queen's College, Belfast.
Very Rev. Dean Meyler.

Marquis of Kildare.
Sir J. N. Radcliffe, K.C.B.
James O'Farrell, Esq.
Right Honourable Alexander Macdonnell,
Resident Commissioner.

READ letter 4986, dated 2nd July 1861, from the Rev. G. K. Wilson, in reference to the circumstances under which he has been removed from the Management of Glenale National School, County Londonderry.

Ordered, That the Rev. Mr. Wilson be informed, that it does not come within the province of the Commissioners, to enter upon a discussion of the various matters relating to the sentence of deposition, which he admits to have been passed upon him, and further, that they see no grounds for altering their decision of the 25th of June, as already communicated to him.

— III. —

CASE OF REVEREND M. O'FARRELL.

ANNADUFF MALE AND FEMALE NATIONAL SCHOOLS, COUNTY LESTRIM.

Non-Vested.—No Committee.

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5	Letter from Board of National Education to Right Reverend Dr. Kilduff, dated 29th August 1893	18
6	Memorandum as to Letter 7093—62, from Right Reverend Dr. Kilduff, dated 29th August 1893	18
7	Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of Board of National Education, dated 30th August 1893	19

Teachers in this case recognised the authority of the newly-appointed manager, and received salary through him.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT from Report of Mr. Harkin, District Inspector, dated 16 July 1893.

Annaduff Female National School, Roll No. 4288, County Lestrim. Non-vested.
Manager—Rev. M. O'Farrell.

"The manager of this school is under suspension from his bishop from all ecclesiastical duties."

— No. 2. —

LETTER from the Board of National Education to the Right Reverend Dr. Kilduff.

Office of National Education, Dublin,
11 August 1893.

My Lord,
As in his last report upon the Annaduff Male and Female National Schools, the Inspector, Mr. Harkin, mentions that the Manager, Rev. M. O'Farrell, "is under suspension from his bishop from ecclesiastical duties," we beg that you will be so good as to state, for the information of the Commissioners, whether such is the case.

We have, &c.

(signed)

Maurice Crowe, }
James Kelly, } Secretaries.

To Right Rev. Dr. Kilduff, Longford.

— No. 3. —

MEMORANDUM as to Letter 6835—62, from Right Reverend J. Kilduff, Longford, dated 16th August 1893. Subject: Annaduff National Schools, reply to letter of 11th inst., with reference to managership.

[N.B.—The letter from Right Rev. J. Kilduff is not now forthcoming; careful search has been made for it, but without effect. The substance of it is embodied in the minute of 22nd August 1893.]

— No. 4. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 23 August 1862.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James Gibson, Esq.
Rev. John Hall.
Laurence Waldron, Esq., M.P.

John Leutinger, Esq.
John O'Hagan, Esq.
Right Hon. Alexr. Macdonnell.

The Secretary lays before the Commissioners, the District Inspector's Report of the Annaduff National School, County Leitrim, dated the 10th ult., in which he states as follows:

"The manager of this school is under suspension from his bishop from all ecclesiastical duties;" and informs the Board that upon receipt of this report, he wrote to the bishop of the diocese, the Right Rev. Dr. Kilduff, with the view of ascertaining whether such was the case, that he received a reply (6853—62) dated 16th August 1862, which is now submitted, stating that the Rev. M. O'Farrell (the manager referred to) has performed no ecclesiastical duties for several years past, and requesting that the Board of National Education may from the date of his communication (16th August 1862), recognise the Rev. John Sheridan, Drumana, County Leitrim, as manager of the Annaduff National School.

Ordered, That under the circumstances explained by the bishop, the Commissioners cannot recognise any longer the Rev. M. O'Farrell as manager of this school, and that the Right Rev. Dr. Kilduff be requested to state, for the information of the Commissioners, whether the Rev. Mr. Sheridan is the Rev. M. O'Farrell's clerical successor in the parish.

— No. 5. —

Annaduff National Schools, Co. Leitrim.—B.O. 22—8—62.

(6853—62.)

LETTER from the Board of National Education to the Right Reverend Dr. Kilduff.

My Lord,

Office of National Education,
23 August 1862.

HAVING had the honor of laying your letter of the 16th instant, before the Commissioners of National Education, they direct us to request you will have the goodness to state for their information if the Rev. John Sheridan, whom you have nominated as manager, is now the priest of the parish in which the school at Annaduff is built, in place of the Rev. M. O'Farrell.

We have, &c.
(signed) Maurice Cross, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

The Right Rev. Dr. Kilduff,
R.C. Bishop of Longford.

— No. 6. —

MEMORANDUM as to Letter 7098—62, from the Right Rev. J. Kilduff, dated 26th August, 1862. Annaduff National Schools' reply to letter on 6853—62.

[N.B.—This letter also is not now forthcoming. Careful search has been made for it. The substance of it is embodied in Minute of 22—8—62.]

— No. 7. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education, dated
29 August 1862.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James Gibson, Esq.
Right Honourable The Attorney
General (O'Hagan).
Rev. John Hall.
L. Waldron, Esq., M.P.

John Lenthaigne, Esq.
John O'Hagan, Esq.
Right Honourable Alexander
Macdonnell.

The Secretary informs the Commissioners, that in accordance with the Board's Minute of the 22nd inst., he wrote to the Right Rev. Dr. Kibbitt with the view of ascertaining whether the Rev. John Sheridan, whom he was desirous to have appointed manager of the Annaduff National School, is clerical successor in the parish to the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell, reported as being suspended from ecclesiastical duties, and reads his Lordship's reply (7000—62) stating that the Rev. Mr. Sheridan is at present the sole officiating priest in the parish in which the Annaduff National School is built.

Ordered, That the Rev. John Sheridan be appointed manager of this school in place of the Rev. M. O'Farrell.

— IV. —

CASE OF REVEREND MR. SHERIDAN.

RATOATH MALE AND FEMALE NATIONAL SCHOOLS, COUNTY MEATH.

Non-Vested.—Under a Committee.

ASHBOURNE NATIONAL SCHOOLS, COUNTY MEATH.

Non-Vested.—No Committee.

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4	Letter from Mr. Luke Eife to Mr. E. A. Corwell, dated 20th October 1864	21
5	Letter from Mr. L. O'Reilly to Mr. E. A. Corwell, District Inspector, dated 4th November 1864	21

Teachers in these cases recognise the authority of the newly-appointed manager, and received salary through him.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of National Education,
dated 27 January 1863.

PRESENT:

James Gibson, Esq.
Honourable Judge O'Hagan.
Right Honourable The Attorney
General (Lawson).

Rev. John Hall.
John Lenthaigne, Esq.
John O'Hagan, Esq.
Right Honourable Alexander
Macdonnell.

READ Letter No. 145, from Mr. E. A. Corwell, Inspector, District No. 28, reporting that two of the three gentlemen who compose the Committee of the Ratoath National Schools, are favourable to the continuance of the Rev. P. Sheridan (who is suspended from all sacerdotal functions in his parish) as manager. The Rev. J. Fulham, administrator of the parish, claims the management of Ratoath National Schools, as well as of the Ashbourne National Schools, also under the management, at present, of the Rev. P. Sheridan.

Ordered, That the Rev. P. Sheridan be informed, that the Commissioners regret that they cannot continue to recognise him as manager, he being under Ecclesiastical suspension; also, that the committee of the schools named, be acquainted with this decision, and be informed of the Rev. Mr. Fulham's claims to become the manager in the Rev. Mr. Sheridan's place.

Ordered further, That the Rev. Mr. Fulham be informed, that as the schools are non-voted, and under the directions of committees, it is necessary that he should be nominated by them, before the Commissioners can recognise him as manager.

— No. 2. —

(145.)

LETTER from Mr. Eugene A. Conwell to the Board of National Education.

Gentlemen, Trim, 5 November 1864.
In reply to your letters of 26th September and 18th October last, I beg to state that I requested the different members of the Committee of the Ratoath National Schools, to meet me there on the 26th ultimo.

Mr. Thunder was unable to attend, but Dr. O'Reilly and Mr. Eife attended, and said that as personal friends of Rev. P. Sheridan (who is suspended from all sacerdotal functions in the parish) they were unwilling to sign any document transferring the management of the schools to the clergyman, Rev. J. Fulham, who has been for a long time administrator of the parish, lest by doing so they might hurt the feelings of their friend, Rev. P. Sheridan.

I have since received letters from each member of the school committee which I append, and submit the point to the Commissioners, whether or not a suspended clergyman should continue as manager of the schools.

I have, &c.
(signed) Eugene A. Conwell,
District Inspector.

The Secretaries, Education Office.

— No. 3. —

LETTER from Mr. Michael Thunder to Mr. Eugene A. Conwell.

Dear Sir, Lagore, 29 October 1864.
I regret very much that I was unable to attend at the Ratoath National School yesterday, in compliance with your notice. As an old and persevering friend of the National system, I should assuredly have been with you, were I not compelled to remain in the house by the wetness and extreme dampness of the day.

I think it right to state to you, that had I been able to attend, I should most certainly have advocated a change of administration, for whilst I have every confidence in the ability and integrity of the teacher, I cannot but feel that the school has lately fallen a good deal in public estimation, and this I attribute to the want of vigour in the government.

With a view to remedy this, I should have felt it my duty to have urged the propriety of appointing the Rev. J. Fulham as patron, as I consider that from his position in the parish, as well as his active habits, he would more than any other person, be likely to promote the interests of the school, as well as of education generally, in the district.

I am, &c.
(signed) Michael Thunder.

E. A. Conwell, Esq.

— No. 4. —

LETTER from Mr. Luke Effe to Mr. E. A. Conwell.

Ratoath, 30 October 1864.

Sir,
 In reply to your application regarding Father Sheridan, as manager of the Ratoath National Schools, I beg to say that I do not wish him to be deprived of it at present.

I have, &c.
 (signed) Luke Effe.

— No. 5. —

LETTER from Mr. L. O'Reilly to Mr. Eugene A. Conwell.

Ratoath, 4 November [1864.]

Sir,
 HAVING had some communication with Father Sheridan on the subject of the National School, I find he has very sanguine hopes of a speedy restoration, as an act of grace, from the new Bishop; and under the circumstances, am in favour of delaying any further proceedings with regard to changing his patronage for the present.

Inspector Conwell.

I remain, &c.
 (signed) L. O'Reilly.

MASTERS OF SCHOOL SCHOOLS
(SIXTY-ONE)

LETTERS to all Members of Parliament, and of all Clergymen and other Clergymen, relative to the same.



Ordered, by The House of Commons, in its Fifth
 Session, 1840.



04/01/2014